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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 7th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 10 October 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Drobnjak (Croatia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

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1. **Mr. Nduhuura** (Uganda) said that the Sahrawi people had patiently waited for the United Nations to implement General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), thereby enabling them to exercise their right to self-determination. Instead, Western Sahara — Africa's last colony — remained under foreign occupation. A significant portion of the Territory was illegally occupied by Morocco, which, over the previous 25 years, had continuously obstructed the referendum process to which it and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario) had agreed under the United Nations Settlement Plan. Meanwhile, Sahrawis were denied the right to live peacefully in their own land, even as some of them endured harsh conditions in refugee camps, and were subjected to systematic violations of their human rights and the theft and plunder of their natural resources.

2. To make matters worse, Morocco had expelled civilian and military personnel of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) in March 2016, and the Frente Polisario's armed forces had crossed into the restricted zone in the Gargarat area in August 2016, violating the ceasefire agreement concluded by both parties. Those actions imperilled the United Nations-led political process. The Security Council's inability to enforce its own decisions with regard to the Territory and to secure access to it by the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, who had not been able to visit since 2012, further illustrated its limitations in upholding its mandate of maintaining international peace and security in the case of Western Sahara.

3. It was therefore up to the General Assembly to take the necessary steps to bring the decolonization of Western Sahara to fruition. In that connection, his delegation supported the call for the Assembly to determine a date for a referendum on self-determination for the Sahrawi people and for the Special Committee on decolonization to undertake an official visit to Western Sahara and the refugee camps in southwestern Algeria and to hold a special session on Western Sahara. The Committee must fulfil its promise to the people of Western Sahara, who had trusted and faithfully collaborated with the United Nations despite the injustices they continued to endure at the hands of their aggressor. Failure to resolve the impasse through diplomatic means was bound to result in further conflict in a region already troubled by violent extremist terrorism.

4. Lastly, in the case of Palestine, Uganda supported the resumption of the peace process, with a view to implementing the two-State solution.

5. **Mr. Prasad** (India) said that as one of the initiators of the historic Afro-Asian Conference in Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955, his country had been a strong and consistent advocate of decolonization. The complex challenges facing the contemporary world extended to the 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories as well. In discharging the mandate of helping guide those Territories to independence and sovereignty, the Special Committee and the Committee must therefore understand the particular circumstances of each Territory and take into account the welfare and wishes of the people above all. His Government was proud to have been associated with the Organization's successes in the area of decolonization and remained committed to carrying out the Committee's mandate in that regard.

6. **Mr. Nkoloi** (Botswana) said it was regrettable that 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories remained on the agenda of the Special Committee, including Western Sahara, the last African colony. He expressed concern that despite the efforts of the United Nations, the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy, the Sahrawi people continued to be denied their right to self-determination and independence. His delegation encouraged the parties to the dispute to approach negotiations in a spirit of compromise and mutual respect in order to reach an agreement. The will of the people, as expressed in a democratic and open referendum, would have to be respected by all. In the meantime, the international community must redouble its efforts to support the negotiations that would culminate in self-determination for the Sahrawi people. Security Council resolution 2285 (2016) had extended the mandate of MINURSO for another year, but the Mission could achieve its objectives only if all parties mustered the necessary political will.

7. **Ms. Onanga** (Gabon) said that the Organization should make an even greater effort to eliminate the remaining obstacles to decolonization; it should also help the Territories to narrow their gaps in terms of the crucial information they needed for self-governance, and to advance their economic and social progress, with a particular focus on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and combating climate change.

8. On the question of Western Sahara, Gabon supported efforts to ensure a lasting, mutually acceptable political solution to the dispute under the aegis of the United Nations. Regional security challenges should remind the international community of the urgent need to revive the negotiation process. Gabon welcomed the Moroccan autonomy initiative as a credible means of ending the current impasse and reaching a lasting agreement, and praised the steps Morocco was taking to advance human rights, improve the humanitarian situation and introduce political, economic and social initiatives in the Sahara region. All the parties must compromise and engage actively in substantive negotiations in accordance with General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. All the countries of the Sahelo-Saharan region should also join together to ensure stability and development in order to minimize the destabilizing effects of the rampant terrorism in the area.

9. **Mr. Koyma** (Central African Republic) said that, given the specific nature of certain decolonization cases, it would be judicious to refrain from taking radical positions whose consequences would be impossible to predict. Notably, the regional dispute over the Moroccan Sahara had been at a stalemate for forty years as a result of the rigid positions of certain parties, which had continually worked to thwart the many settlement plans proposed over the years. As a result, since 2004 the Security Council had endorsed the negotiation of a mutually acceptable political solution as the only viable way of settling the dispute.

10. International agreements that recognized the Sahara region as a historic part of Morocco, the significant economic investments made by Morocco to develop the region, and the recent holding of free and democratic elections that had put many Saharans in public office, all attested to its belonging to Morocco. His Government continued to support the 2007 Moroccan autonomy initiative for the Sahara region, which had been described by the Security Council as serious and credible, as well as the United Nations-led negotiation process launched in support of that initiative. He echoed the Security Council's call on all parties to demonstrate a spirit of compromise and to enhance their cooperation with the United Nations and with one another, with a view to resolving the dispute and thereby contributing to regional security and stability. Morocco had made a welcome decision to return to the fold of the African Union (AU), and that decision did not in any way constitute a renunciation of its legitimate rights or the recognition of a fictional entity that lacked the most basic attributes of sovereignty.

11. **Mr. do Rego** (Benin) welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to establish an honest and constructive dialogue between the parties to the dispute over Western Sahara, in accordance with Security Council resolutions. Benin looked forward to positive developments as a result of the various Moroccan initiatives, which could provide the basis for substantial, credible, good-faith negotiations. All parties involved should show a spirit of compromise in order to reach a just and mutually acceptable settlement of the question of Western Sahara. His delegation also hailed the decision by Morocco to return to the African Union; as one of its founding members, it had over the years constantly strengthened

its relations with other African countries, working with them to attain the shared objectives of combating poverty and achieving development.

12. **Ms. Mac Donald** (Mozambique), expressing regret that Western Sahara remained on the Organization's list of Non-Self-Governing Territories despite the many efforts made and resolutions adopted to promote its self-determination over the previous four decades, said that action was needed to enable its people to exercise that right. A mutually acceptable political resolution to the question of Western Sahara had to be found. With that in mind, the former President of Mozambique in his capacity as Special Envoy of the African Union for Western Sahara had spoken out in favour of the self-determination referendum, and urgent steps should now be taken to set a date for holding it. Furthermore, MINURSO must be provided with the necessary civilian staff and adequate financial resources to fulfil its mandate, and it must be given a human rights mandate, taking into account the need to ensure sustained independent monitoring in both the Territory and the refugee camps.

13. **Mr. Shava** (Zimbabwe) said that his country, fully aware as a former colony of the evils associated with colonialism and imperialism, supported the consistent call of the General Assembly for the self-determination and independence of the people of Western Sahara, the last vestige of colonialism in Africa. The United Nations must uphold its responsibility to ensure that the peoples of all 17 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories achieved self-determination.

14. The African Union, mindful of the 1975 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice affirming that Morocco had never had any tie of territorial sovereignty over Western Sahara, had called for the United Nations General Assembly to set a date for the mandated referendum on self-determination, and urged the Security Council to address the human rights issues and the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Territory; while also advocating that MINURSO be given a human rights mandate in addition to its primary mandate to supervise the referendum.

15. The success of the just struggle of the people of Western Sahara for self-determination was a prerequisite for the peace, security and stability of the African continent. The situation of the Western Saharans in refugee camps in a foreign land was a direct consequence of the Territory's colonization, and should not be used as a distraction from the root cause. They would not be there if all had been well in their homeland.

16. The continuation of direct negotiations between the Frente Polisario and Morocco was essential to expedite the holding of the long-awaited referendum. Especially in view of the derailing of the United Nations Settlement Plan in the past by one of the parties, it was disturbing that, despite several meetings between the two, no meaningful progress had been made. If all Member States supported the mission of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, that would surely give new impetus to the process. The observance of a ceasefire for 25 years by the Sahrawi people proved that they wished to achieve self-determination peacefully. The Security Council's repeated extension of the mandate of MINURSO — which was to supervise the referendum — demonstrated the Council's resolve to ensure that the long-overdue popular consultation would be held.

17. **Mr. Tilman** (Timor-Leste) said that the Committee, which had played an important part in the realization of his country's right to self-determination, continued to have a crucial role in achieving the Organization's priority goal of eradicating colonialism. Colonialism was a denial and underestimation of the worth of the basic human right to self-determination, and the continued existence of any form of colonialism impeded the economic development and well-being of dependent peoples. General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), as well as the Constitution of Timor-Leste, enshrined the right of all peoples to self-determination. His country's young generation of diplomats was conscious of its recent history and particularly the role of Timorese leaders, who had lobbied and raised their issues much like the petitioners who had spoken in favour of the right of their peoples to determine their future.

18. The colonial pasts of Timor-Leste and Western Sahara shared many similarities. Both had been invaded by their immediate neighbours upon the withdrawal of European Powers in 1975. Like the people of Western Sahara, the people of Timor-Leste had been subjected to grave human rights violations. Both had been the subject of United Nations

resolutions on self-determination. However, unlike Timor-Leste, where a popular consultation had been held, Western Sahara had not been able to exercise that right. The two peoples' similar struggles for justice had laid the foundation for a strong friendship and solidarity between them. Upon independence in 2002, Timor-Leste had established full diplomatic relations with the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic. It still stood in solidarity with the Sahrawi people as they continued to strive for self-determination and a lasting solution on the basis of the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

19. **Mr. Vujić** (Serbia) said that his Government's position on the dispute over Gibraltar was based on international law and respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of States. Recalling that Gibraltar was a Non-Self-Governing Territory and that General Assembly resolution 2070 (XX) mandated that the question of Gibraltar should be resolved through bilateral negotiations between Spain and the United Kingdom, he noted that only the United Nations could determine when the decolonization process in a Territory had satisfactorily concluded. His delegation endorsed the Spanish proposal regarding the administration of Gibraltar and called upon the two parties to resume negotiations with a view to reaching an enduring settlement, in line with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

20. **Mr. Sumah** (Sierra Leone) said that self-determination, an inalienable right, required the colonized peoples themselves to make an unconstrained demand for its exercise. The Secretary-General and the Decolonization Unit of the Department of Political Affairs had made commendable efforts to achieve decolonization. While the principle of self-determination should be realized on a case-by-case basis in the remaining 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, the destiny of their people was in their hands. The United Nations should thus respect their political aspirations and the path they chose, whether it be self-government, autonomy, free association or some other option suitable to their circumstances.

21. Although the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism would end in fewer than five years, the prospect of achieving its goals was not encouraging, and the support of the administering Powers was therefore crucial. The Special Committee and the administering Powers needed to collaborate closely and regularly in an atmosphere of mutual trust with a view to identifying areas or activities that were achievable and that required further engagement.

22. Sierra Leone commended New Zealand for its exemplary support to the people of Tokelau and praised the Government of France for improving the Kanak people's access to economic and social benefits in New Caledonia and for respecting their cultural heritage. More effort should be devoted to higher education for the indigenous people in order to place them on a more professional footing in the area of governance.

23. On the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), peaceful, constructive negotiation remained the only credible option for achieving sustainable peace. The Secretary-General was urged to use his good offices to engage the concerned parties in dialogue.

24. The ongoing political process led by the United Nations on the question of Western Sahara aimed to achieve a mutually acceptable and negotiated political settlement of that regional dispute, in the spirit of compromise recommended in the Security Council resolutions on the matter. There had been welcome cooperation by Morocco with the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara in his several visits to the region the previous year in the hope of furthering a mutually acceptable political solution that would bring sustainable peace and progress to the people of Western Sahara.

25. Sierra Leone supported the Moroccan autonomy initiative as a credible way to achieve a political solution to that long-standing dispute. Enhanced cooperation among the countries of the Arab Maghreb Union would certainly contribute to stability and security in the Sahel region. Morocco had made considerable efforts to improve the human rights situation in the Sahara region and had made strides in the area of development, an essential human right. It had also held municipal and, for the first time, regional elections in the Sahara region in September 2015.

26. The Chairperson of the African Union was also trying to facilitate a lasting settlement. The fact that the AU Peace and Security Council had decided to consider the question of Western Sahara at least twice a year clearly indicated the organization's readiness to assume a greater role in the crisis.

27. **Mr. Hickey** (United Kingdom) said that his Government's relationship with its Overseas Territories was a modern one based on partnership, shared values and the right of each Territory's people to choose to remain British. His Government and its Territories recognized that their relationship brought mutual benefits and responsibilities. Since the 2012 publication of its white paper on the Overseas Territories, his Government had worked closely with them to further develop those partnerships. Annual meetings with their elected leaders in a Joint Ministerial Council reviewed strategy and commitments, and the Council had affirmed, in 2015, its commitment to the advancement of the peoples of the Territories and their just treatment and protection from abuses, as well as the importance of promoting their right to self-determination.

28. Thus, his Government's fundamental responsibility and objective under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, was to ensure the security and good governance of the Territories and their peoples. Territory governments were expected to meet the same high standards as the British Government in maintaining the rule of law, respect for human rights and integrity in public life, delivering efficient public services and building strong and successful communities, and were being supported by his Government in those areas. Welcoming continued democratic development, the United Kingdom looked forward to the coming elections in the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands. In the March 2013 Falkland Islands referendum, the overwhelming majority had expressed the wish to remain a British Territory, demonstrating his Government's ongoing commitment to the future development and continued security of the Territories in accordance with their wishes. His delegation welcomed the United Kingdom-Argentina joint communiqué of September 2016, in which Argentina agreed to take appropriate measures to remove all obstacles limiting the sustainable development of the Falkland Islands, including in trade, fishing, shipping and hydrocarbons, as well as agreeing that the Falklands were free to set up flight connections with other countries in the region.

29. Lastly, the United Kingdom reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to the people of Gibraltar. It would neither enter into arrangements under which the Territory's people would pass under the sovereignty of another State against their freely and democratically expressed wishes nor participate in a process of sovereignty negotiations with which Gibraltar was not content.

30. **Mr. Buhler** (France) said that his country had cooperated fully with the United Nations on the question of New Caledonia for the past twenty years and intended to continue to do so, and each year it had fulfilled its reporting obligations under Article 73 *e* of the Charter. In 2016, on France's initiative, New Caledonia had welcomed a four-month United Nations expert mission whose aim had been to observe the review of the provincial special electoral list for the election of members of provincial assemblies and congresses and the initial drawing up of the list, in preparation for New Caledonia's self-determination referendum. All the partners involved had noted that the experts' presence had fostered a peaceful atmosphere during the conduct of the work, which his Government welcomed. The experts had made themselves available to any political groups that wished to speak to them both during meetings of the official restricted working group and during bilateral meetings requested by the groups themselves. Both France and its New Caledonian partners considered that the United Nations mission had gone well. Although they had suggested improvements to working methods, the experts had not detected any electoral fraud. His Government was committed to the proper conduct of the political and democratic process that would allow the New Caledonian people to decide by 2018 whether they wished to remain a part of France or not. It had already received the expert mission's electoral recommendations and was taking steps to implement them.

31. Fully intending to carry out its role of arbiter, France remained in general an attentive and benign partner to New Caledonia. It participated in the overhaul of the local government by continuing to contribute a very high financial sum towards promoting development in the Territory. It oversaw the proper functioning of the local authorities and ensured that the particularities of Kanak culture were taken into account. It sought to have the various New Caledonian factions reach common positions on sensitive subjects in view of their impending shared destiny.

32. Since the mandated redistribution of political powers between his Government and New Caledonia under the Nouméa Accord in 1999, France had proceeded to comply progressively and irreversibly, while providing compensatory funds for the human, material and financial resources needed. In the spirit of that agreement, the progressive expansion of the powers devolving to the New Caledonian authorities, and their ability to participate in foreign affairs and create their own legal system and set of laws, all prepared the Territory for eventually acceding to full sovereignty, if it so desired. With regard to the conduct of foreign affairs, France had fully supported and welcomed the fact that New Caledonia had recently been unanimously admitted as a full member of the Pacific Islands Forum.

33. His Government had been particularly invested in guiding the New Caledonian people transparently and productively towards the choices they must make by 2018. To that end, it would soon request the sending of a new mission to support the review of the special electoral lists in 2017.

34. **Mr. Boukadoum** (Algeria) said that, as those responsible for dealing with the shameful legacy of colonialism, Member States had failed to complete the task of decolonization. Algeria was unwavering in its commitment to the Special Committee's mandate to free the world from the scourge of colonialism. There were still 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories on its agenda, and its report (A/71/23) outlined several commendable initiatives during the 2016 session, including the regional seminar on decolonization hosted for the second year by Nicaragua, the revival of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories at the United Nations, and the organization of a conference on decolonization, of which Algeria had been a sponsor.

35. The conflict in Western Sahara, the last colonial Territory in Africa, pitted the Frente Polisario, the legitimate representative of the Sahrawi people, against Morocco, and could be resolved only through the people's full, free and fair exercise of its inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the 1975 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, and pursuant to successive Security Council resolutions consistently reaffirming that right to self-determination. Yet the past year had brought no positive news and the parties to the dispute remained at a stalemate. Those who were blatantly fanning the flames of discord had forgotten that the referendum was not just a decision made by the United Nations, but also a negotiated compromise accepted by the two parties to the conflict, who must now abide by it.

36. The Security Council's surprising inaction had only strengthened the resolve of the Sahrawi people, who had never yielded to despair or resorted to anything but peaceful means since 1992. They deserved, more than ever, stronger support from the international community, and particularly from the Fourth Committee.

37. The question of Western Sahara was an African issue and the African Union had made advancing the cause an urgent priority. Indeed, the 1991 United Nations Settlement Plan had drawn on proposals made by the Organization of African Unity. Algeria had advocated enhanced interaction between the United Nations and the African Union on all issues on the Security Council's agenda related to Africa; and the AU had in fact made contributions by taking positions on Western Sahara or dispatching its Special Envoy for Western Sahara to brief the Security Council.

38. The conflict in Western Sahara risked destabilizing the entire region because it attracted terrorism, drug trafficking and transnational crime. That should serve as an additional reason for resolving it through peaceful means as soon as possible. His delegation supported the fifth round of negotiations between the two parties called for in the latest Security Council resolution so that they could show their good faith. The Secretary-General had honoured his promise to visit the region in March 2016 despite countless obstacles, and both his Personal Envoy and his Special Representative for Western Sahara had made great efforts, and they deserved the international community's effective support.

39. Until Western Sahara was decolonized, it was essential to monitor human rights in the Territory as well as the exploitation of its natural resources, as had been made clear in the Secretary-General's latest report to the Security Council. Both the African Union Legal Adviser and the European Court of Justice had also issued their respective legal opinions in that regard.

40. Algeria commended the Special Committee's decision to hold a special session on Western Sahara, bearing in mind that the region's peace and future were at stake. The Special Committee should also consider carrying out a fact-finding mission in Western Sahara to see where the truth lay. The patience of three generations of Sahrawis should not continue to be tested.

41. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco) said that the signing of the Madrid Accord between Morocco and Spain had irreversibly ended the colonization of Moroccan Sahara and definitively marked its return to its hor eland, Morocco. That would have signalled the removal of the Saharan question from the United Nations agenda but for the hostility of Algeria, whose hegemonic designs on the region and archaic Cold-War-era outlook persisted, in spite of its shared history with Morocco and the rules of good-neighbourly relations. Algeria relentlessly undermined his country's territorial integrity by using as a weapon the principle of self-determination, which had never been synonymous with separatism or secession; paragraph 6 of the basic resolution 1514 (XV) made it clear that any attempt to disrupt a country's national unity or territorial integrity was "incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations". It was therefore vital to preserve the spirit and letter of the principle of territorial integrity, which applied to all peoples, regardless of their political status.

42. Pursuant to Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Charter, the General Assembly should have discontinued consideration of the Saharan question since 1988, once the Security Council became seized of the issue. Unfortunately, the question of Moroccan Sahara had remained on the Fourth Committee's agenda, in violation of that Article — a unique case in the history of the Assembly. In the interests of the credibility of the United Nations and its ability to resolve the regional crisis, Morocco therefore called on the Assembly to respect the Charter and the functions assigned to the Security Council. He recalled that the Council was dealing with the Saharan question as a dispute under Chapter VI and that, consequently, none of the 63 Security Council resolutions referred to decolonization or occupied territory. Similarly, none of the 82 reports by the Secretary-General presented the issue from a decolonization perspective. The qualification of the question as a regional dispute was therefore substantiated.

43. Despite claims to contrary, the Sahara had always been, and would forever remain, Moroccan. That was the profound conviction of the Moroccan peoples, from Tangiers to Lagouira. The people of the Sahara region had demonstrated their devotion to their homeland by having the highest regional participation rates in the recent national legislative elections, which had been held without incident, as confirmed by all national and international observers. Through the electoral process, in which they had been participating for over 40 years, the Saharans had elected their true representatives to the Moroccan Parliament, exercising their right to self-determination in all freedom, in line with the Charter and international law. In 2015, the Saharan people had warmly and proudly welcomed their king, Muhammad VI on his historic visit to the southern provinces commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the glorious Green March, during which visit he had launched a new regional development model with a budget of US$ 8 billion.

44. Since the return of the Sahara region to its homeland, the Kingdom had reinvested $7 for every $1 of revenue generated there. The Saharan region's social indicators, which were at their lowest in 1975, were currently the highest in the country and surpassed those of several neighbouring countries. The Moroccan proposal for an autonomy statute, which aimed to break the stalemate and find a lasting solution to the regional dispute, had been described as "serious and credible" in 11 successive Security Council resolutions. It was and would remain the sole option for a political settlement. The King had reiterated that Morocco would make no further concessions than those in the proposal, which complied with the obligation for a lasting political solution under the auspices of the United Nations. Morocco welcomed the widespread international support for the initiative. However, instead of embracing the positive momentum it offered, the other parties had opted for equivocation and the status quo, clinging to plans that had been discarded by the Council and the Secretary-General. Algeria must assume its responsibilities and conduct itself in accordance with its true role as a protagonist in the regional dispute. That country could not continue its surreptitious machinations and back-office proposals with impunity and must cease its sabotage of all

attempts to find a solution while hiding behind its imagined status of "observer", which deceived no one.

45. The efforts Morocco had made to promote and protect human rights throughout the country, and in particular in the Sahara region, were widely recognized. Unfortunately, the same could not be said of the camps in Tindouf, Algeria, where the captive populations, in addition to suffering human rights violations, had for several decades been deprived of humanitarian aid sent to them by international donors. Reports by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) had confirmed the large-scale diversion of humanitarian aid for the benefit of Frente Polisario and Algerian officials. Recent revelations also confirmed that Algeria levied a value-added tax on humanitarian aid products destined for the needy refugees in Tindouf. One wondered how a country could allow itself to generate significant revenue at the expense of a suffering, sequestered people.

46. The large-scale diversion was the direct result of the host country's non-compliance with the statutory obligation to hold a census in the Tindouf camps, in flagrant violation of the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, Security Council resolutions dating back to 2011, and the Secretary-General's recommendations. It was time to stop hiding the true size of the camp population from the international community; the reality was that there were fewer than 30,000 refugees. If the host country contested that number, it should take up the challenge to allow UNHCR to conduct the census.

47. Those captive refugees lived under the yoke of a dictatorial, non-State political and military entity that violated human rights and whose leadership, imposed by Algiers, remained in place for life. Notwithstanding its denials, the responsibility of Algeria in the regional dispute over the Moroccan Sahara was irrefutable. Algeria provided political and military support to the Frente Polisario; used diplomatic efforts to vilify and alienate Morocco; and intimidated delegations that opposed the Algerian position and petitioners appearing before the Committee. It was Algeria that earmarked an undisclosed budget, using taxpayer contributions to finance a separatist group with ties to international and regional terrorism. It was Algeria that had proposed the partition of the Sahara to the former Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mr. Baker, and then rejected the Baker Plan. It was Algeria that submitted proposals, without assuming the responsibility, and co-sponsored draft resolutions on the question of the Sahara. It was Algeria that recruited and incited young Saharans to commit violence and acts of vandalism in the Moroccan Sahara. Those were not the actions of an observer. Algeria must stop deceiving the international community and its own people with its pretence of defending the principle of self-determination; it was only deluding itself.

Statements made in exercise of the right of reply

48. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas were part of Argentine national territory. As they were being illegitimately occupied by the United Kingdom, they were the subject of a sovereignty dispute between the two countries, as had been recognized by various international organizations and repeatedly in successive General Assembly resolutions, all of which had urged the two Governments to resume negotiations as soon as possible in order to find a peaceful, lasting solution to the dispute.

49. Argentina rejected the British white paper in all aspects related to the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, as set out in a formal protest by his Government. Argentina also rejected all unilateral actions undertaken by the United Kingdom in those archipelagos and surrounding maritime areas, and continued to reject any reference by the United Kingdom to those Argentine territories as "British Overseas Territories", as well as its inclusion of the so-called "British Antarctic Territory" among its Overseas Territories.

50. The right to self-determination of peoples subjected to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation did not apply in the case of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. The illegitimate "referendum" held there had been a unilateral exercise that in no way changed the colonial essence of the question; it could not resolve the sovereignty dispute and had no effect on the

inalienable rights of Argentina or the work of the Special Committee. Any attempt to allow the British population on the islands to arbitrate a dispute to which their own country was a party distorted the right of self-determination of peoples, given that the situation did not involve a people subjugated, dominated or exploited by a colonial Power. The interests of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands were adequately addressed by resolutions of the General Assembly and by the Constitution of Argentina.

51. The recent joint communiqué between the United Kingdom and Argentina reflected their political will to resume negotiations on all issues relating to the South Atlantic without exclusion and under the formula on sovereignty set out in paragraph 2 of the joint statement of 19 October 1989. While negotiations, understandings and specific agreements were preconditions for progress on those issues, the suspension of all unilateral actions by the United Kingdom in the disputed territories would be a first step towards creating a climate conducive to the identification of areas of cooperation. Argentina reaffirmed its legitimate sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which were an integral part of its national territory.

52. **Mr. Boukadoum** (Algeria) said that he was compelled to respond to the statement made by the representative of Morocco, which contained too many inaccuracies to refute. He instead recalled Security Council resolutions 371 (1975) and 380 (1975) which called for the immediate withdrawal of Moroccan troops from Western Sahara, and he reiterated that Algeria had no power to manipulate the Council. With regard to the allegations of human rights violations, misappropriation of humanitarian aid and falsification of the number of inhabitants in the Tindouf camps, he questioned why Morocco had refused to admit fact-finding missions by the Special Committee and the Security Council. Furthermore, it was not Algeria, but Morocco, that had carved up the Territory like a cake in 1975, and the Frente Polisario had won the ensuing war in 1977. In addition, if all Sahrawis were thrilled and happy, unlike their counterparts in the camps, he asked why Morocco continued to block a referendum that would allow the allegedly captive refugees to express their desire for freedom.

53. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco) said that he had prepared two statements for the meeting: the first dealt, inter alia, with doctrine, political processes and the role of the Security Council and General Assembly, without assigning blame to anyone. However, he had been forced to deliver the second in the light of the Algerian representative's inflammatory remarks. To illustrate his country's good faith, he recalled that during the last two sessions both countries had stuck to matters of doctrine relating to self-determination and territorial integrity and though they had differed in their interpretation, they had not attacked each other outright. Turning to the issue of the referendum in the Sahara region, he recalled that the former Secretary-General, Mr. Annan, had said that it was inapplicable because of the disagreement on the electorate. The Moroccan autonomy proposal did provide for a referendum among the Saharan population on a mutually acceptable political agreement. Morocco had not created or pushed for a political solution; it held no sway over the Security Council, but merely complied with its resolutions and was committed to negotiating a political solution in which there would be no winners or losers — all that stood to be gained was peace and stability.

54. The human rights violations in Tindouf had not been reported by Morocco, but by several humanitarian actors and former refugees. He could cite the case of a former Frente Polisario official who had deserted to Morocco and had since been unable to see his family who were still sequestered in the camps, despite his protests. Algeria did not have a monopoly on poignant stories. Furthermore, he invited the Algerian representative to read the Secretary-General's report (S/2016/355), which confirmed that Moroccan elections had been conducted without incident. Calm, development and democracy characterized the Sahara region, where leaders were elected from among the population, including a former Frente Polisario official. The problem was that for Morocco's neighbours and those who supported that organization, only the inhabitants of the camps were considered good "Sahrawis" — the moment they fled in search of democracy and self-determination, they were discredited and, as evidenced at a recent regional seminar of the Special Committee, not allowed to speak.

55. He hoped that the discussions at the current meeting would remain civil and focus on doctrine, for

the dispute could be solved by the Security Council alone, not by self-appointed mediators from the region. Algeria had rejected the Baker proposal, which Morocco had accepted and which could have spared the region so much suffering. Too many occasions to achieve peace had been lost. Morocco would never give up hope for a peaceful solution to the dispute, with Algeria and Morocco resuming neighbourly relations and coming together to form the great Maghreb that would face regional development and security challenges as one.

56. **Mr. Boukadoum** (Algeria) said that while it would be useless to respond to each of the allegations made, he noted that the Moroccan representative was, in fact, addressing the supposedly irrelevant Fourth Committee and that the current Secretary-General had stated in 2015 that the Moroccan autonomy plan was no longer valid. His delegation reiterated that negotiations must resume between the two parties, which were Morocco and the Frente Polisario. He therefore urged Morocco to begin talks and asked why that country was afraid to do so. Algeria was also committed to building a positive future and that would be possible only if Morocco and the Frente Polisario came to the negotiating table.

57. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco) recalled that it was not Morocco that had deemed the referendum in the Sahara inapplicable, but the Secretary-General in his report to the Security Council (S/2000/131) and the then Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Mr. Van Walsum, who had subsequently been forced to resign because Algeria had declared him persona non grata. There was no good or bad plan, only the plan endorsed by the United Nations; Morocco had accepted the Baker plan from the outset and it was the rejection by Algeria that had led to its failure.

58. Morocco was being asked to negotiate with the Frente Polisario, while the strings were being pulled in Algiers. Algeria had proposed establishing a commonwealth, along the lines of the European principalities like Andorra. Morocco was ready to hold discussions and he invited his Algerian brothers to bring such proposals to the negotiating table, with Mr. Ross, instead of holding unilateral "brainstorming" sessions in the thirty-eighth-floor offices of the Secretariat, for that was no way to resolve the dispute. The Frente Polisario did not have decision-making power, but was merely an instrument for implementing Algerian policy; that was why his delegation had the long-held belief that Algeria must participate in the negotiations. The people in the camps were family and Morocco had always wished for their reintegration into the Moroccan Sahara. It was time to let them out of the camps and allow them to come home to end the dispute once and for all.

59. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolutions before it under agenda items 54, 55, 56, 57 and 58, none of which had any programme budget implications.

Draft resolution I. Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations, submitted under agenda item 54 (A/71/23 (chap. XIII))

60. **Mr. Perry** (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that, as in previous years, the United Kingdom would abstain in the vote on the draft resolution. His Government did not take issue with its main objective, which was to seek compliance with Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations, and would continue to meet its own obligations fully in that regard in respect of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories. It believed, however, that the decision as to whether a Non-Self-Governing Territory had reached a level of self-government sufficient to relieve the administering Power of the obligation to submit information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter ultimately fell to the government of the Territory and the administering Power concerned, and not to the General Assembly.

61. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland,

Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Central African Republic, France, Guinea-Bissau, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

62. *Draft resolution I was adopted by 156 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.*

Draft resolution IV: Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, submitted under agenda item 55 (A/71/23 (chap. XIII))

63. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

64. *Draft resolution IV was adopted by 157 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.*

65. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that he had voted in favour of the resolution on the understanding that it did not apply in situations where the right to self-determination did not exist. A number of General Assembly resolutions had determined that a sovereignty dispute was at the core of the question of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, the original inhabitants of which had been replaced illegally with British citizens. All the resolutions expressly stated that only negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom could settle the question. Moreover, in 1985 when the United Kingdom had submitted two proposals for inclusion in the draft resolution on the matter, the General Assembly had explicitly ruled out the applicability of self-determination to the case. Furthermore, since resolution 31/49 urged both parties to refrain from taking decisions that would result in unilateral modifications to the situation, unilateral exploration and exploitation by the United Kingdom of the renewable and non-renewable resources in the aforementioned areas was therefore in open contravention of that resolution.

Draft resolution III: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, submitted under agenda item 56 (A/71/23, chap. XIII))

66. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

67. *Draft resolution III was adopted by 112 votes to none, with 50 abstentions.*

68. **Mr. Perry** (United Kingdom) said that although his Government supported the specialized agencies and their efforts to provide assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories in the humanitarian, educational and technical fields in particular, the statutes of those agencies should be carefully respected. For that reason, his delegation had abstained during the voting.

69. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that he had voted in favour of the resolution on the understanding that it would be implemented in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and Special Committee on decolonization.

Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.3: Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories, submitted under agenda item 57

70. *Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.3 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.4: Question of Western Sahara, submitted under agenda item 58*

71. **Mr. Dabouis** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine; and speaking in explanation of position before the decision, said that the European Union and its member States looked forward to the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus. They reaffirmed their full support for the Secretary-General's efforts to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution that would provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter, and encouraged the parties to work within the United Nations framework. The Secretary-General's Personal Envoy was also making commendable efforts to consult with the parties and neighbouring States, and they in turn should cooperate with him to advance towards a more intensive phase of negotiations, in good faith and without preconditions, taking note of developments since 2006, as advocated by the many subsequent Security Council resolutions. The agreed method of shuttle diplomacy by the Personal Envoy seemed to offer a way forward.

72. The European Union welcomed the agreement reached between the United Nations and Morocco allowing MINURSO to return to full functionality, and encouraged the parties to cooperate with the Mission. They should also work more closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on confidence-building measures. Excellent progress had been made in implementing and expanding them, especially with regard to family visits, and that programme would unquestionably improve the political climate as well. UNHCR should also, at the urging of the Security Council, continue to consider the registration of refugees in the Tindouf camps.

73. Lastly, concerned by the consequences of the Western Sahara conflict on security and cooperation in the region, the European Union noted with satisfaction the decision by Morocco to rejoin the African Union.

74. *Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.4* was adopted.*

Draft resolution VI: Question of Tokelau, submitted under agenda item 58 (A/71/23, chap. XIII))

75. *Draft resolution VI was adopted.*

Draft resolution VII: Question of American Samoa, submitted under agenda item 58 (A/71/23, chap. XIII))

76. *Draft resolution VII was adopted.*

77. **Mr. Perry** (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of position before the decisions, said that his Government would join the consensus on the eight draft resolutions concerning British Overseas Territories submitted under agenda item 58 in order to demonstrate its full support for the right to self-determination, even though some of the language in the draft resolutions was unacceptable. Unfortunately, the Special Committee had failed once again to take into account the positive evolution of the relationship between the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories. The latter enjoyed a large measure of internal self-government and had all freely chosen to maintain their links to the United Kingdom. The draft resolutions failed to reflect that modern relationship, which was based on partnership, shared values and the right to self-determination.

Draft resolution VIII: Question of Anguilla, submitted under agenda item 58 (A/71/23, chap. XIII))

78. *Draft resolution VIII was adopted.*

Draft resolution IX: Question of Bermuda, submitted under agenda item 58 (A/71/23, chap. XIII))

79. *Draft resolution IX was adopted.*

Draft resolution X: Question of the British Virgin Islands, submitted under agenda item 58 (A/71/23, chap. XIII))

80. *Draft resolution X was adopted.*

Draft resolution XI: Question of the Cayman Islands, submitted under agenda item 58 (A/71/23, chap. XIII))

81. *Draft resolution XI was* adopted.

Draft resolution XII: Question of Guam, submitted under agenda item 58 (A/71/23, chap. XIII))

82. *Draft resolution XII was adopted.*

Draft resolution XIII: Question of Montserrat, submitted under agenda item 58 (A/71/23, chap. XIII))

83. *Draft resolution XIII was adopted.*

Draft resolution XIV: Question of Pitcairn, submitted under agenda item 58 (A/71/23, chap. XIII))

84. *Draft resolution XIV was adopted.*

Draft resolution XV: Question of Saint Helena, submitted under agenda item 58 (A/71/23, chap. XIII))

85. *Draft resolution XV was adopted.*

Draft resolution XVI: Question of the Turks and Caicos Islands, submitted under agenda item 58 (A/71/23, chap. XIII))

86. *Draft resolution XVI was adopted.*

Draft resolution XVII: Question of the United States Virgin Islands, submitted under agenda item 58 (A/71/23, chap. XIII))

87. *Draft resolution XVII was adopted.*

Draft resolution XVIII: Question of New Caledonia, submitted under agenda item 58 (A/71/23, chap. XIII))

88. *Draft resolution XVIII was adopted.*

Draft resolution XIX: Question of French Polynesia, submitted under agenda item 58 (A/71/23, chap. XIII))

89. *Draft resolution XIX was adopted.*

Draft resolution II: Dissemination of information on decolonization, submitted under agenda item 58 (A/71/23, chap. XIII))

90. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

France, Togo.

91. *Draft resolution II was adopted by 157 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions.*

92. **Mr. Perry** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had voted against the resolution. The obligation it placed on the Secretariat to publicize decolonization issues represented an unwarranted drain

on United Nations resources and was therefore unacceptable.

93. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that he had voted in favour of the resolution on the understanding that it would be interpreted and implemented in accordance with the relevant General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions. The General Assembly and the Special Committee expressly referred to the question of the Malvinas Islands as a special situation involving a sovereignty dispute between the United Kingdom and Argentina. That dispute should be resolved urgently through a just, peaceful and lasting negotiated settlement that took into account the interests of the populations of the islands.

94. **Mr. Ramírez Carreño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Special Committee on decolonization, said that with the support of the Decolonization Unit, the Special Committee had for the first time drafted for the Committee's consideration 11 separate resolutions on small Territories, under agenda item 58, in place of the discontinued omnibus resolution on those Territories.

95. **The Chair** said that, having adopted all the draft resolutions under the items under consideration, the Committee would at a later meeting consider a remaining draft decision on the question of Gibraltar, under agenda item 58.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.